

Amendments to the Claims:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims, including amendments to the claims, is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication network, comprising
 - [[[-]]] a plurality of devices, each equipped withdevice comprising:
 - [[[-]]] a device operating circuit,
 - [[[-]]] a communication interface for receiving command signals for controlling an operation of the device operating circuit,
 - [[[-]]] a control circuit coupled between the device operating circuit and the communication interface for controlling the operation of the device operating circuit part-in dependency-ofresponse to said command signals, and
 - a master integral to the device for receiving control signals; and
 - [[[-]]] a control unit for generating the control signals, to control the operation of the devices; —a master for receiving the control signals and for generating command signals and transferring the command signals to the communication interfaces of the devices,
characterized in that each device is equipped with a master and wherein the communication network comprises activating means for activating activates one of the masters as an active master for generating the command signals in response to the received control signals, and for transferring the command signals to the communication interfaces of the plurality of devices, and for activating another master in case the active master fails, the communication network activates a second one of the masters as the active master for generating the command signals in response to the received control signals, and for transferring the command signals to the communication interfaces of the plurality of devices.

2. (Currently Amended) Communication network as in The communication network of claim 1, wherein the control unit is a wireless remote control unit.

3. (Currently Amended) Communication network as in The communication network of claim 1, wherein each master is equipped with a transceiver for wireless communication between the control unit and the master and between the master and the communication interfaces of the devices.

4. (Currently Amended) Communication network as in The communication network of claim 1, wherein in a group formed by a part, but preferably all, at least one of the devices, the device operating circuit comprises a ballast circuit for operating a lamp.

5. (Currently Amended) Communication network as in The communication network of claim 4, wherein each device in the group is comprised in in the at least one device includes a luminaire.

6. (Currently Amended) Communication network as in The communication network of claim 1, wherein each master is equipped with includes beacon means for transmitting periodical signals when it is the active master; and with detecting means for detecting the periodical signals transmitted by [[an]] the active master.

7. (Currently Amended) Communication network as in The communication network of claim 6, wherein the detecting means comprise a timer circuit for timing [[the]]a time lapse during which the periodical signal is absent.

8. (Currently Amended) Communication network as in The communication network of claim [[6]]7, wherein each of the masters comprised in the network is equipped with includes means for activating itself in case the active master fails.

9. (Currently Amended) Communication network as in The communication network of claim [[7]]8, wherein the means for activating itself become active operates to activate itself when the time lapse during which the periodical signal is absent is longer than a predetermined time lapse.

10. (Canceled)

11. (New) The communication network of claim 1, wherein each of the masters includes a table stored in memory that relates the received control signals to the command signals.

12. (New) A method of operating a communication network having a plurality of devices, the method comprising:

activating a first master included in one of the plurality of devices to become an active master;

receiving control signals at the active master from a control unit;

in response to the control signals, transmitting command signals from the active master to the plurality devices to control operations of the devices;

detecting at a second one of the devices when the active master fails;

in response to detecting that the active master has failed, activating a second master included in the second one of the devices to replace the active master and to respond to the control signals by transmitting the command signals to the plurality devices to control operations of the devices.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the active master transmits the command signals wirelessly to at least some of the plurality of devices.

14. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the active master transmits a periodic beacon signal to indicate that it is active and operating.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein detecting at a second one of the devices when the active master fails comprises detecting that the beacon signal is absent for a time period greater than a threshold time period.

16. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein one of the operations of the devices is an illumination operation.

17. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein receiving control signals at the active master from a control unit comprises receiving control signals from a user-operated remote control device.

18. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
detecting at a third one of the devices when the second master fails;
in response to detecting that the second master has failed, activating a third master included in the third one of the devices to replace the second master and to respond to the control signals by transmitting the command signals to the plurality of devices to control operations of the devices.

19. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising accessing a table stored in memory at the active master to determine the command signals from the received control signals.